

the Bosphorus, and, within twenty-four hours of quitting the field, reached once more *the* palace of Nicomedia— a distance of a hundred and sixty miles, Taking his wife and children with him, he hurried through the defiles of the Taurus, summoned to his side whatever troops he had left behind in Syria and Egypt, and awaited the oncoming of Licinius, who followed at leisure in his ticks. The end was not long delayed, Maximian's soldiers regarded his cause as lost, and despairing of clemency, he took his own life at Tarsus. His provinces passed without a struggle into the hands of Licinius, who butchered every surviving member of Maximian's family.

Nor had the victor pity even for two ladies of imperial rank, whose misfortunes and sufferings excited the deepest compassion in that stonyhearted age. These were Priscilla, the wife of Diocletian, and her daughter Valeria, the widow of the Emperor Galerius. On his death-bed Galerius had entrusted his wife to the care and the gratitude of Maximian whom he had raised from obscurity to the throne, Maximian repaid his confidence by pressing Valeria to marry him and offering to divorce his own wife, Valeria returned an indignant and high-spirited refusal. She would never think of marriage, she said,\* while still wearing mourning for a husband whose ashes were not yet cold, It was monstrous that Maximian should seek to divorce a faithful wife, and, even if she assented to his proposal, she had clear warning of what was likely to be her own fate.

\* /Nnw, » c. 3<>